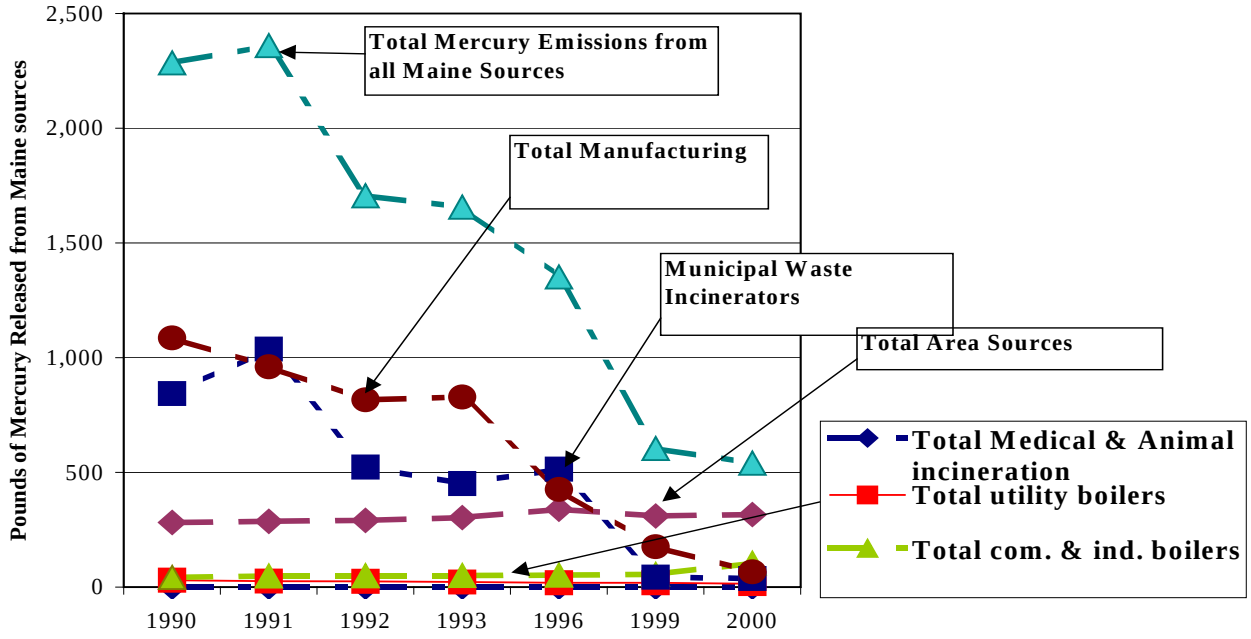
Maine's Mercury Emissions to the Air Decrease over the Past Decade



Most Reductions in mercury emission are due to:

- The closure of the Chloro-Alkali production facility in Orrington,
- New Regulations on Municipal Waste Incinerators,
- The elimination of Medical Waste Incineration in Maine, and
- Removal of mercury from the waste-stream (dental amalgam, batteries, etc).

The increased area source emissions are due to:

- Increased commercial and industrial use of coal and wood for fuel;
- Population increases that in turn result in greater releases from landfills, laboratories, dentists, paint, lamps, and consumer products.

Data limitations: This chart does not include mercury transported in from out-of-state, mercury releases from mobile sources like cars and trucks, or releases from natural sources. The majority of the area source emission estimates are based on national average testing results, rather than Maine specific data. The Department's confidence in the accuracy of the data varies with each category, with greater confidence for the larger categories. The largest category with the least certainty is mercury releases from residential wood combustion. Prior to 1993 Municipal Waste Combustors emissions were calculated by emission factors. After 1993 annual Stack test data was used to estimate mercury emission.

Reference: DEP mercury emissions inventory 2003, which is based on Stack Test Data, Emission Factors in EPA's Factor Information Retrieval (FIRE) Data System version 6.23, & US Census Data.

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